



State of Utah

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.
Governor

GARY R. HERBERT
Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Governor

November 2005

Dear Principal:

I am writing to extend an invitation from the Office of the Governor and the Utah Board of Juvenile Justice to you and your students to participate in Utah's Fifth Annual *Do the Write Thing* Challenge. This project provides young people a crucial voice in efforts to reduce youth violence through writing and literature.

The Challenge encourages 7th and 8th grade students to participate in classroom discussions and then write about the causes of, and solutions to, youth violence. In addition, there is the prospect of having their writings published and placed in the Library of Congress. One boy and one girl from Utah will be selected to represent our state at the National Recognition Week in Washington, D. C. in July 2006.

Teachers are encouraged to incorporate the Challenge into their classroom curriculum. Some ideas for classroom activities include:

- English: May be part of an essay or poetry-writing assignment
- Health: Can be part of a discussion about personal safety
- Civics: Could be part of an exercise on personal and civic responsibility
- History: May be used to examine youth violence from an historical perspective

February 1, 2006 is the deadline for entries. To participate, students complete a short essay or poem and submit it to their teachers and/or principals. Each school then selects its top two entries for the state competition (one girl and one boy) and forwards them to the Utah Board of Juvenile Justice for an initial review. Next, a panel of qualified judges selects the state winners. In April 2006, the contest finalists, their teacher and a parent will be invited to attend an awards luncheon where state winners will be announced. In July, the winning student(s), their teacher and a parent will travel to Washington, D. C. to participate with winners from across the country in the National Recognition Week.

Entry forms and additional information may be found by going to:
www.juvenile.utah.gov/DoTheWriteThing/DoTheWriteThing.htm . To request a teacher's packet by mail, please contact Reg Garff at rgarff@utah.gov or you may call 801-538-1372.

We encourage the participation of your students and look forward to this year's Challenge.

Sincerely,

Jon M. Huntsman Jr.
Governor